a salt factory, were being inundated. On the Member's representation a scheme was sanctioned under which work had been finished to a distance of 3 miles and 6 miles remained to be completed. People had already surrendered the required land worth about Rs. 30,000. If the canal were completed, an additional area of 10,000 acres could be brought under cultivation. The work to be carried out might cost about Rs. 10,000.

Dewan's reply.—Some of the requests of the Member appear to be reasonable. Urgent action will be taken on them. The representations on the other points will also be carefully considered.

52. Need for the opening of a Veterinary Hospital at Punalur.

Mr. P. Narayana Pillai (Member, Pathanapuram taluk) submitted that cattle markets were being held at Avaneeswaram, Kunnathur, Piracode and Sasthancotta and many heads of cattle were being imported to Punalur every year from the Tinnevelly District and from there sent to the above markets. Diseases were also being imported through those animals. Last year a peculiar disease prevailed on account of which several animals died within 10 or 12 hours and it was found to be contagious. 200 heads of cattle died. The Quilon Veterinary Inspector could not attend to such cases, on account of the distance. A Veterinary Dispensary at Punalur was a great want, and the Member requested Government to establish one.

Dewan's reply.—The representation will be referred to the Director of Agriculture for an expression of his views.

53. Agricultural difficulties of the Shencottah taluk and suggestions for remedying the same.

Mr. A. Ponnambalam Pillai (Member, Shencottah taluk) urged that the first and foremost requirement was improvement of the irrigational facilities. The five eastern villages *viz.*, Cusbah, Elathur, Ayikudy, Kilangad and Samburvadagarai, were being irrigated by the rivers and that only for the Kumbhom crop. Kanny crop got hardly enough water. It was that crop that stood in need of water the supply of which could be facilitated by improving the tanks which alone would enable them to raise the Kanny crop. The case of the other *pakuthies* was much worse; during the rains the lands were being washed away by flood. The lands dried up the next day. The channel-fed lands suffered more, as they depended on the streams which supplied water only during the monsoon. The best way of ensuring a copious supply of water was to enlarge and otherwise improve the tanks. An investigation should be ordered of the irrigation works in the whole taluk, especially of those of Puliyira, Karkudy, Puthur, Sivanallur and Mekkarai *pakuthies*. The sanctioned estimates for irrigational improvements required revision in the light of the present standard. The Sri Mulaperi tank, the estimates for which were sanctioned years ago, might be ordered to be constructed at once. Among other agricultural needs were the bridges to cross the Ayikudy and Samburvadagarai rivers which had been sanctioned. The following points were also urged :—

(1) Provision of facilities for green manure and fodder. It was impossible to obtain free passes for the former. An order granting remission of half-tax on lands on which green manure or fodder crops were grown would be a source of great encouragement. A similar concession was being granted by the Madras Government. The slopes of Forest Reserves should be reserved for fodder and fuel.

(2) The Member then complained that the term *Manipidi* was not defined. To declare an acre of land yielding a few measures as *Manipidi* was unreasonable and unjust. That was not intended by the Royal Proclamation, though the practice was otherwise. Lands whose crops were destroyed by wild animals were also entitled to some concession.

(3) The Agricultural Journal should be issued in Tamil also for the benefit of the Tamil taluks. The Agricultural Sub-Inspector should be ordered to visit the villages thrice a week to demonstrate the use of improved implements and scientific manure.

(4) The Member suggested the division of the State into a number of circles with an Inspector in charge of each and also the appointment of a Deputy Director of Agriculture.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly